

sweet hope, that when the hour of death shall come, and the lamp of life faintly glimmers in the feeble flame, it bids us look to a better and brighter world, to live and reign with King Jesus in never ending joy. Such joy as "eye hath not seen nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." 1 Cor. ii, 9.

Let us go with these three sisters to the house of worship and prayer where the rich and poor meet together in mutual acknowledgement that the Lord is the Maker, and that we all are alike dependent creatures, looking to one Father to supply our wants, both temporal and spiritual. We receive strength and encouragement from the counsel of the children of God, and enjoy companionship. Then again we will meet together in the grave, that undistinguishing receptacle of the wealthy and needy. Once more shall all meet at the judgment seat of Christ that every one may receive judgment according to their works, whether good or bad.

If it is so valued a privilege here on earth to enjoy the communion of saints, to take sweet counsel together with our fellow travelers toward the heavenly kingdom, what shall we see and know when finally we come to the house not made with hands eternal in the heavens unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem? And to be met by Jesus and bidden welcome home, to enter in and have eternal life with Father and Savior, to be with the spirits of just men made perfect, and to rejoice with the angels evermore. Such a reward and more awaits the diligent and faithful.

What a glorious blessing it is to receive the reward of God's promise. Oh, that more might prove faithful, that more hearts might become the dwelling place of Faith, Hope and Love and their good works spread wider and wider over the face of the world. May the church of God increase in their fruits, till at length the happy time shall arrive when the kingdom of this world shall become the kingdom of the Lord and his anointed. God hasten so blessed a period of deliverance and perfection.

Independence, Kans.

### HALF WAY TO CANAAN.

BY MRS. W. C. PERRY.

Paper read at the Sister's Society for Christian Endeavor, at Huntington, Ind.

The thoughts which we have to present to-night have been suggested by the study of the Sunday school lesson of last Sabbath. We find in the eleventh chapter of Genesis that of the descendents of Noah, there was one man named Terah who was called to leave his home in Ur of the Chaldees and go to Canaan. The Scriptures say but little about the way in which Terah was called or just what induced him to leave the land of his nativity. This much they do tell us, however: Terah's son Haran died before his father, and after the death of his son, Terah decided to take his family and possessions and go to Canaan. They also tell us that Terah, although he was Abraham's father was a heathen—an idolator. Tradition goes a little farther, a little more into detail and tells us a story like this: Abraham's parents were heathens. They were fire worshipers and Abraham's father was an image maker. Yet notwithstanding all this evil influence, Abraham early saw the folly of such worship and refused to worship either the idols which his father made, or the sun or fire as was the custom of those people. For this he was taken, bound and cast into the fire, as was Daniel in later years, and like Daniel, he came out unscathed. Not one hair of his head was injured. His brother Haran was undecided. He could not make up his mind whether it was better to worship the true God, or to worship fire and images as his parents did. For his undecision, he too, was cast into the fire, which at once consumed him. This so grieved the father that he resolved to remain no longer in that country. Disease seemed to be almost unknown in those early days. People seldom died except of old age; and for a son to die before his father was a sorrow that few were called upon to endure. This together with the manner of his death so worked upon the mind of his father, Terah, that he decided that he would arise take all of his vast possessions, for he was very wealthy, go to Canaan and worship the true God. So breaking

his images, he took Abram, his son and Abram's wife, Lot, his grandson, with all of his servants, and started for Canaan. They traveled until they came to a country almost exactly half way between Ur of the Chaldees and Canaan. This was such a beautiful country that he named it Haran after his lost son. Here he stopped. After a while he sent back to Ur for Nahor, his remaining son. He came bringing with him some of the same old idols that they had worshiped before. Here they dwelt and again set up idol worship as bad as ever. Abram would gladly have gone on but, as was the custom in those days, he must needs remain with the father; and here Terah died. He never reached Canaan. Half way there. Half way to Canaan. There he stopped and there he died.

The traditional part of this story may be true or false. We do not know and it does not matter. The lesson to us is the same.

How many people there are in this world who are half way to Canaan, and who will die there. Fathers and mothers, good citizens, bringing their families up in all morality, intelligence and industry, who would be grieved beyond expression to have one of their children do a dishonorable act; and yet they are leading their children just half way to Canaan. There they stop. Must they die there? Perhaps they, like Terah, have been called of God to leave off idol worship and turn to the true God. Perhaps it has been the death of a sainted mother; or maybe they have been called to give back to the Father an almost idolized child, brother or sister. We know by sad experience how imperative those calls are, and they have decided that they too would delay no longer. They would start for Canaan and they did start. Perhaps they quit many bad habits; perhaps they have tried to better control a hasty temper; maybe they left off swearing and resolved to be more charitable, more active in all good works in their community. But there they have stopped—half way to Canaan.

Did you ever think, fathers, mothers that you might be the means of keeping your children out of the kingdom? That their blood might some day be